

## I CLAIM:

## 1. An expandable bait sleeve comprising:

a sleeve having an interior surface and an exterior surface and a first end and a second end, said first end is open and dimensioned to receive a portion of a bait;

wherein said sleeve is sufficiently expandable so as to enlarge to a larger diameter when a bait is inserted into said open first end of said sleeve while at the same time said sleeve is sufficiently rigid so that said bait is retained in said sleeve by frictional engagement with said interior surface of said sleeve.

2. The expandable bait sleeve of Claim 1 wherein said sleeve is comprised of polyethylene terephthalate.

3. The expandable bait sleeve of Claim 1 wherein said sleeve comprises a mesh-like configuration defining a plurality of apertures.

4. The expandable bait sleeve of Claim 1 further comprising:

a fishing line having a first end coupled to a fishing rod and a second end dimensioned to pass through an aperture defined by said second end of said sleeve; and

a fishing hook having a line coupling end and a hook end, said line coupling end is coupled to said second end of said fishing line and said hook end is dimensioned to protrude outside of said open first end of said sleeve.

5. The expandable bait sleeve of Claim 1 further comprising:

a swivel harness having a first end and a second end, said first end of said swivel harness is dimensioned to swivel and is coupled to an inner surface of said second end of said sleeve and is dimensioned to be coupled to a fishing line, said second end of said swivel harness is passed through an inner surface of said second end of said sleeve and is dimensioned to be coupled to a leader;

a leader having a first end and a second end, said first end is coupled to said second end of said swivel harness; and

a fishing hook having a leader coupling end and at least one hook end, said leader coupling end is coupled to said second end of said leader and said at least one hook end is dimensioned to protrude outside of said sleeve.

6. The expandable bait sleeve of Claim 1 wherein said second end of said sleeve is molded to a fishing hook so that a line coupling end of said fishing hook is coupled to an inner surface of said second end of said sleeve and a hook end of said fishing hook is dimensioned to protrude outside of an upper portion of said sleeve proximate said second end of said sleeve.

7. The expandable bait sleeve of Claim 1 wherein said second end of said sleeve is open so that a bait can be inserted through said open first end of said sleeve and pass through said sleeve so that a portion of said bait protrudes out of said open second end of said sleeve.

8. The expandable bait sleeve of Claim 7 further comprising a fishing hook coupled to a center portion of said sleeve and having a line coupling end and a hook end, said hook end protrudes out of said center portion of said sleeve and said line coupling end protrudes out of said center portion of said sleeve.

9. The expandable bait sleeve of Claim 1 further comprising:

a head coupled to said second end of said sleeve, said head defines an aperture in a center portion thereof dimensioned to allow a fishing line to pass therethrough;

at least one fishing hook having a line coupling end and a hook end, said line coupling end is dimensioned to be coupled to a fishing line and said hook end is dimensioned to protrude outside of said sleeve; and

a skirt having a narrow portion and a wide portion, said narrow portion of said skirt is coupled to said head and said wide portion of said skirt is dimensioned to cover at least a portion of said sleeve.

10. The expandable bait sleeve of Claim 9 further comprising:

a first fishing hook having a line coupling end and a hook end, said line coupling end is dimensioned to be coupled to a fishing line and said hook end is dimensioned to protrude outside of a center portion of said sleeve; and

a second fishing hook having a line coupling end and a hook end, said line coupling end is dimensioned to be coupled to a fishing line and said hook end is dimensioned to protrude outside of said open first end of said sleeve.

11. The expandable bait sleeve of Claim 1 further comprising:

a head coupled to said second end of said sleeve;

a fishing hook having a coupling end and a hook end, said coupling end is dimensioned to be coupled to said head and said hook end is dimensioned to protrude outside of said sleeve;

a skirt having a narrow portion and a wide portion, said narrow portion of said skirt is coupled to said head and said wide portion of said skirt is dimensioned to cover at least a portion of said sleeve;

a substantially L-shaped shaft having a first arm and a second arm and, said first arm is coupled to said head and a center portion of said L-shaped shaft is dimensioned to be coupled to a fishing line;

at least one spinner blade is coupled to said second arm of said substantially L-shaped shaft; and

at least one bead is coupled to said second arm of said substantially L-shaped shaft.

12. The expandable bait sleeve of Claim 1 further comprising:

a crank bait head having a front portion and a rear portion, said front portion is dimensioned to be coupled to a fishing line and said rear portion is coupled to said second end of said sleeve;

a first fishing hook having a first end coupled to said crank bait head and a second end comprising at least one hook;

a wire having a first end and a second end, said first end of said wire is coupled to said crank bait head; and

a second fishing hook having a wire coupling end and a hook end, said wire coupling end is dimensioned to be coupled to said second end of said wire and said hook end protrudes outside of said first end of said sleeve.

13. The expandable bait sleeve of Claim 1 further comprising:

a harness;

a first fishing hook having a first end and a second end and a center portion therebetween, said first end of said first fishing hook is molded to said harness, said center portion of said first fishing hook is coupled to said second end of said sleeve, and said second end of said first fishing hook comprises at least one hook;

a skirt having a narrow portion and a wide portion, said narrow portion of said skirt is coupled to said harness and said wide portion of said skirt is dimensioned to cover at least a portion of said sleeve and said first fishing hook;

a wire having a first end and a second end, said first end of said wire is coupled to said second end of said sleeve;

a second fishing hook having a wire coupling end and a hook end, said wire coupling end is dimensioned to be coupled to said second end of said wire and said hook end protrudes outside of said first end of said sleeve;

a head having a front portion and a rear portion, said rear portion is coupled to said harness;

a shaft having a first end and a second end, said second end is coupled to said front portion of said head and said first end is dimensioned to be coupled to a fishing line;

at least one spinner blade coupled to said shaft; and

at least one bead coupled to said shaft.

14. The expandable bait sleeve of Claim 1 further comprising, in combination:

a skirt having a narrow portion and a wide portion, said narrow portion of said skirt is coupled to said second end of said sleeve and said wide portion of said skirt is dimensioned to cover at least a portion of said sleeve;

a fishing hook having a coupling end and a hook end, said coupling end is coupled to said second end of said sleeve and said hook end is dimensioned to protrude outside of an upper portion of said sleeve proximate said second end of said sleeve;

a shaft having a first end and a second end, said second end is coupled to said second end of said sleeve and said first end of said shaft is dimensioned to be coupled to a fishing line;

at least one spinner blade coupled to said shaft; and

at least one bead coupled to said shaft.



15. A method for catching fish comprising, in combination, the steps of:

providing a sleeve having an interior surface and an exterior surface and a first end and a second end, said first end is open and dimensioned to receive a portion of a bait;

wherein said sleeve is sufficiently expandable so as to enlarge to a larger diameter when a bait is inserted into said open first end of said sleeve while at the same time said sleeve is sufficiently rigid so that said bait is retained in said sleeve by frictional engagement with said interior surface of said sleeve;

inserting a portion of bait into said open first end of said sleeve;

providing a fishing line having a first end and a second end, said second end is dimensioned to pass through an aperture defined by said second end of said sleeve;

coupling said first end of said fishing line to a fishing rod;

providing a fishing hook having a line coupling end and a hook end, said hook end is dimensioned to protrude outside of said open first end of said sleeve;

coupling said line coupling end of said fishing hook to said second end of said fishing line; and

casting said sleeve.

16. The method of Claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

providing a first sleeve and a second sleeve each having an interior surface and an exterior surface and an open first end and an open second end;

wherein said first sleeve and said second sleeve are sufficiently expandable to permit said first sleeve and said second sleeve to expand to a larger diameter when a bait is inserted into said open first end of said first sleeve and said second sleeve while at the same time said first sleeve and said second sleeve are sufficiently rigid so that said bait is retained in said first sleeve and said second sleeve by frictional engagement with said interior surface of said first sleeve and said second sleeve;

inserting a bait into said open first end of said first sleeve and through said open second end of said first sleeve and into said open first end of said second sleeve and through said open second end of said second sleeve;

cutting said bait into at least two pieces so that each piece is surrounded by a sleeve.

17. A method for creating an improved soft artificial bait comprising the steps of:

providing a sleeve having an interior surface and an exterior surface and a first end and a second end, said sleeve comprises a mesh-like configuration defining a plurality of apertures;

placing said sleeve in a mold for a soft artificial bait; and

injecting plastisol into said mold to create a soft artificial bait with said sleeve as a skeleton.